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BLISTER RUST NEWS SERVICE

Clip Sheet No. 3 &

(Not to be released before August 24, 1923.)

Planting of White Pine Stimulated by Control of Blister Rust.

With the blister rust menacing the stands of white pine in the Northeastern and Lake States, there was at first a decided retrenchment in the use of white pine in reforestation. This was a natural outcome of the damage caused by this serious fungous pest, following its introduction and rapid spread in this country. As time has gone on, however, and the results of local currant and gooseberry destruction in effectively controlling the disease have become more generally known, renewed interest in white pine is shown by the increasing use of this tree in reforestation.

In New York, several million little white pine trees have been distributed this spring by the New York Conservation Commission, to private individuals, municipalities, state institutions and schools; and through County Farm Bureaus as demonstration plantings. It has been conservatively estimated that 12,000 acres of new plantations would be set out this year in New York State alone, a large proportion of these being planted to white pine. Clearing the land of the alternate hosts of the blister rust, the currant and gooseberry bushes, is stipulated by the Commission as a condition to the sale of the trees. The purchaser must do this control work prior to the next June following the date of planting. In New Hampshire, between 5,000 and 10,000 acres are planted to trees yearly, the white pine being used more than any other species. The requests received by the State Forestry Department for trees, especially white pine has been so great during the past 2 years, that it has been impossible to supply the demand, and large land owners and cities are being urged to establish their own nurseries for raising planting stock.

In New Hampshire, local control of the blister rust is conducted with the town as a unit, and in this way, large contiguous areas are cleared of gooseberries and currants each year. While young pines will spring up naturally in protected areas, it is a waste of time and money from an economic standpoint to wait for nature to reforest with pine all of these abandoned pastures, and rocky and steep slopes, and cut-over lands. The sooner these areas are covered with a young growth of trees, the sooner will the land be put on a paying basis. The control of the blister rust makes possible the continued productivity of the land.